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Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

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Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

Summary

Subsequent to the submission of the main report, 12 Member States transmitted to the Secretary-General information requested in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 55/148 of 12 December 2000. Relevant information from those Member States is presented in this addendum.

* A/57/150.
** This addendum is issued to reflect the contributions received by the Secretary-General after the deadline of 30 June 2002.

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Information received from Member States

Belgium

[Original: French]
[15 July 2002]

1. Shortly after the Additional Protocols entered into force, the Government of Belgium, on 20 February 1987, established an Interdepartmental Committee on Humanitarian Law with the aim of identifying and examining national measures for the implementation of international humanitarian law, making proposals regarding such measures to the competent authorities, and monitoring and coordinating the measures taken.[1]

2. The Interdepartmental Committee is one of the first implementation committees to have been set up. It is frequently cited as an example by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in its campaigns to ensure that States fulfil their obligations under humanitarian law, and has served as a model for setting up comparable committees in other countries.

3. The Committee held a meeting on 7 June 2002 to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the conclusion of the Additional Protocols. The following topics were discussed at the meeting: context of the ratification of the Protocols by Belgium; international legal force of the Additional Protocols; suppression of grave breaches; distinction between civilians and combatants; and practical aspects of the implementation of the Additional Protocols in recent armed conflicts.[2]

4. Belgium has adopted national implementation measures in various areas governed by the instruments of the law of armed conflict.

Weapons

5. A committee for the legal evaluation of new weapons, instruments and methods of war has been created within the armed forces. Pursuant to article 36 of Protocol I, its mandate is to analyse the legality of every new weapon, instrument and method of war that is being designed or developed or that the Belgian armed forces may wish to acquire or adopt. In particular, the Committee will issue a reasoned opinion if, on the basis of its findings, the use of the new weapon, instrument or method of war is prohibited, under certain circumstances or all circumstances, by international law. (For the participation of Belgium in the Additional Protocols, see the annex to the main report (A/57/164).)

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[28 June 2002]

Legal framework

Actions taken by the Armed Forces of El Salvador to comply with international humanitarian law

1. The Armed Forces of El Salvador have included the study of international humanitarian law, at both the theoretical and the practical levels, in the instructional curriculum for the various military units. ICRC has assisted in the preparation of mobile training teams composed of official instructors who update and strengthen the units' understanding of international humanitarian law.

2. In addition, the Armed Forces carried out two war games exercises at the Armed Forces Computerized Tactical Training Centre, in which international humanitarian law was applied, beginning with the planning stage of military operations. The exercises were conducted in cooperation with ICRC and the National Red Cross Society of El Salvador.

3. Furthermore, the Armed Forces, in cooperation with the United States Army Southern Command, are currently conducting an exercise known as Peacekeeping Operations "North 2002" (PKO North 02) at military theory and training command posts. More than 20 countries are participating in the exercise, which focuses on the protection of victims of armed conflicts and conflict resolution and prevention.

4. **National committee for the implementation of international humanitarian law.** In view of the need to meet the commitments undertaken by El Salvador in signing and ratifying international humanitarian law instruments, a national committee for the implementation of international humanitarian law was created, known as the Inter-Agency Committee on International Humanitarian Law of El Salvador, with the invaluable support of the Advisory Service of ICRC and its regional delegation in Guatemala.

5. **Activities to promote and disseminate international humanitarian law**. In its few years of existence the Inter-Agency Committee has disseminated information about its work at both national and international levels through the preparation of promotional material and the holding of a series of seminars on various aspects of international humanitarian law attended by officials and staff of the member agencies of the Committee, heads of university departments of juridical sciences and international relations, etc.

6. The Committee has also been invited to participate in various events and seminars for journalists and members of the Armed Forces.

7. **Activities at the legal and judicial level**. With respect to legislation, the Committee has carried out various activities aimed at promoting the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken in the adoption of international instruments.

8. In order to incorporate the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols into existing law, draft amendments to the Penal Code and the Criminal Justice Code were submitted to the legislative committee. The draft amendments included provisions covering the offences in violation of international humanitarian law considered to be war crimes.

9. Furthermore, a legislative subcommittee is currently carrying out a study of the possibility of adopting the provisions of article 90 of Additional Protocol I, concerning the International Fact-Finding Commission.

The national committee — a world example

10. The Inter-Agency Committee on International Humanitarian Law of El Salvador has made significant progress and has a record of accomplishment in disseminating and implementing international humanitarian law. As a result of its efforts, which reflect both commitment and creativity, ICRC, in the *Handbook for Parliamentarians*, No. 1, 1999, published by ICRC and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, singled out El Salvador as being exemplary of its type at the regional level. (For the participation of El Salvador in the Additional Protocols, see the annex to the main report (A/57/164).)

Finland

[Original: English]
[28 June 2002]

1. The National Committee for the Dissemination of Humanitarian Law was established by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland in 1979 as an informal working group of governmental experts to coordinate the dissemination of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols in Finland. The mandate of the Committee was revised at that time to cover, in addition to the coordination of the implementation and dissemination of the Conventions and Protocols and other international humanitarian law instruments, the preparation of the international conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and other relevant international conferences, and the monitoring of new developments in international humanitarian law and the consideration of their implications for Finland.

2. In addition to the activities organized or supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, other institutions, such as the Finnish Red Cross, the Institute for Human Rights of the Abo Akademi University, and the Erik Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights, have organized courses and seminars and issued publications related to international humanitarian law within their fields of activity. Furthermore, the law faculties at the University of Helsinki, the University of Lapland, the University of Turku and the Institute for Human Rights of the Abo Akademi University provide courses on international humanitarian law. (For the participation of Finland in the Additional Protocols, see the annex to the main report (A/57/164).)

Germany

[Original: English]
[10 July 2002]

1. The Federal Ministry of Defence is responsible for the implementation of the norms of international humanitarian law within the German Armed Forces (Bundeswehr). Pursuant to the Law Governing the Legal Status of Soldiers, instruction in international humanitarian law as well as other international regulations, agreements and commitments is integrated into the training programmes for all military personnel

in the German Armed Forces. The courses are conducted by the relevant superior officers.

2. The Zentrum innerer Führung (Leadership Development and Civic Education Centre) offers a variety of courses for legal advisers, teachers of law and field-grade officers on subjects dealing with international law in general and with international humanitarian law in particular.

3. Additionally, legal advisers and teachers of law have the opportunity to improve their knowledge of international law in a tailor-made tactics training course offered by the Army Officers School and by participating in training courses and seminars and extension courses in Germany as well as abroad. (For the participation of Germany in the Additional Protocols, see the annex to the main report (A/57/164).)

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

[Original: English]
[4 September 2002]

1. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in accordance with articles 2 and 3 and chapter 3 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, respects the dignity and high value of human beings regardless of their ethnic group, religion, gender or native language, and emphasizes the observance of the basic rights and fundamental freedoms of all.

2. In consideration of the principles of Islam relating to the religious obligations of Muslim combatants in armed conflicts and the spirit of the Islamic culture, which is based on the protection of human dignity and integrity, as well as the historical heritage of Iranian civilization, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran believes in the observance of humane and ethical principles and restraints on military actions vis-à-vis civilians, particularly women, children, the wounded, prisoners of war, as well as the protection of the environment and cultural properties and sites.

3. In view of this, the activities and actions of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the positions taken by it with regard to law-making, and the promotion, development and implementation of international humanitarian law may be summarized as follows:

4. Given the fact that the main goal of codifying the principles of international humanitarian law is to protect the victims of armed conflicts and ameliorate the severe or excessive effects of such conflicts — and in this context, that their implementation is of fundamental significance; and also having regard to the decisions of the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 1995, demanding the establishment by States of an inter-ministerial institution composed of government and public agencies involved in various fields of humanitarian activities, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, pursuant to the decision of the Cabinet of 7 May 1999, has established the National Committee on Humanitarian Law.

5. The legal system of the Islamic Republic of Iran contains, inter alia, the following regulations governing the rules of armed conflict:

(a) Article 24 of the Punishment Act of the Armed Forces (approved on 24 May 1992) provides that any act of shooting committed by military personnel in contravention of the relevant rules and regulations shall be considered an offence, carrying a prison sentence of two months to one year. Regulations governing such acts shall be embodied in a code of conduct drafted and adopted by the General Chiefs of the Armed Forces;

(b) In addition to the above Act, chapter 8 of the Armed Forces Code of Conduct, entitled "Some rules and regulations of the Geneva Conventions the implementation of which has been approved", explicitly refers to a number of principles and rules of international humanitarian law.

Promotion and dissemination of the provisions of international humanitarian law

6. The National Committee on Humanitarian Law has recently taken certain measures to promote and disseminate humanitarian norms and concepts:

(a) Organizing a three-day workshop on humanitarian law for senior military officers and commanders in collaboration with the University of Tehran;

(b) Translation and publication of two books published by ICRC on the application of the rules of conduct of armed conflicts and international

humanitarian law, as well as publication of information kits and a handbook on the same subjects;

(c) Submission of proposals for the inclusion of two academic credits in international humanitarian law as part of university studies for armed forces personnel. (For the participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Additional Protocols, see the annex to the main report (A/54/164).)

Lithuania

[Original: English]
[24 July 2002]

Status of implementation of the provisions of the multilateral instruments of international humanitarian law ratified by Lithuania in the national legal system of Lithuania

1. According to the Lithuanian Constitution and other national laws (especially the Law on International Treaties), all international humanitarian law treaties ratified by the Seimas (parliament) form part of the national law and their provisions have priority in case of conflict with the national law. Hence, constitutional and other national legal provisions have created the most favourable conditions for the implementation of international humanitarian law.

2. Lithuania has in place all the most important laws necessary for the implementation of the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols thereto as well as other international humanitarian law instruments. The newly enacted Criminal Code covers all war crimes and crimes against humanity (including genocide). In 2000, the Law on the Status of the National Society of the Red Cross and the Use of the Emblem of the Red Cross and Red Crescent was adopted. The amendment to the Administrative Code of the Republic of Lithuania covering responsibility for the misuse of the Red Cross emblem in time of peace is expected to be adopted in 2002.

Dissemination of international humanitarian law and training in the field

3. The issues of international humanitarian law are included in the training programmes for soldiers and officers of the armed forces as well as for police forces. They are part of the curriculum at the Military Academy, the Non-Commissioned Officers School as well as at the Lithuanian Law University, which prepares police officers. International humanitarian law is also among the subjects studied by the future specialists of international law and politics in the Faculty of Law and the Institute of International Relations and Political Science of Vilnius University.

Lithuanian national institutions responsible for the implementation of international humanitarian law

4. On 22 May 2001, the amendment to the Regulations of the Ministry of National Defence was supplemented by a provision that "the Ministry of National Defence shall coordinate the implementation of international humanitarian law in Lithuania". Pursuant to the Order of the Minister of National Defence of 30 August 2001, the Commission on Implementation of International Humanitarian Law was established. A regulation of the Commission, approved by the Minister at the time, defines the Commission as an advisory institution to the Minister of National Defence. Its principal task is to provide assistance to the Ministry of National Defence in coordinating the implementation of international humanitarian law in Lithuania. (For the participation of Lithuania in the Additional Protocols, see the annex to the main report (A/57/164).)

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[15 May 2002]

1. In 1997, a Standing National Committee for the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law was set up pursuant to Executive Decree No. 154 of 1997 as one of the measures to implement the Conventions and the Additional Protocols thereto. The Committee is made up of 12 institutions of the Panamanian State and civil society as represented by the Panamanian Red Cross. The International Committee of the Red Cross provides advice on a continuing basis.

2. The Legislative Subcommittee of the Standing Committee drafted the Act concerning protection of the emblem; it has also drafted an amendment to the Penal Code defining what conduct constitutes violations of international humanitarian law (genocide, war crimes

and crimes against humanity) and is planning to submit it shortly to the relevant authorities.

3. *The Committee has managed to ensure that* courses are held on a continuing basis, both at the School of International Relations of the University of Panama, which has produced countless monographs on the topic, and at the Police Academy. Currently, it is trying to establish a similar course at the School of Law of the University of Panama and at the National Air Service. (For the participation of Panama in the Additional Protocols, see the annex to the main report (A/57/164).)

Russian Federation

[Original: Russian]
[2 August 2002]

1. With a view to the further implementation of the various norms of international humanitarian law, the Government of the Russian Federation adopted the Medium-Term Programme for the Socio-economic Development of the Russian Federation (2002-2004), which points to the need to adopt measures to establish a State system providing medico-social as well as medico-psychological rehabilitation to the victims of armed conflicts and emergency situations. In drawing up the normative and legal instruments, federal executive agencies have been instructed to follow the Programme's provisions.

Information on the dissemination of knowledge about international humanitarian law

2. On an annual basis, Russian ministries and departments, in particular the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Defence, conduct, independently and jointly with ICRC, legal training programmes in the field of international humanitarian law and human rights. In conjunction with these programmes, conferences, lectures, seminars and competitions are conducted on issues relating to the observance of the norms of international humanitarian law, under conditions of armed conflict, the teaching of international humanitarian law, and also its practical application in the professional activities of various categories of Russian employees.

3. In 2001, 5,000 copies of the textbook entitled *International Humanitarian Law* were distributed to the internal officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and a training manual for soldiers and sailors on the topic "Observing the norms of international humanitarian law in internal armed conflicts" was also issued.

4. Competitions testing knowledge of the norms of international humanitarian law are held among the students at specialized military academic institutions. In the past two years, three competitions for student teams have been held, with the participation of approximately 30 teams from different military academic institutions in the Russian Federation and the Commonwealth of Independent States. In 2002, the Russian national team participated in the international competition held in Italy for student teams on knowledge of the norms of international humanitarian law.

5. Special classes on particular aspects of the application of norms of international humanitarian law during peacemaking operations are provided for servicemen who are being sent on peacemaking missions.

6. In 2001, the Ministry of Defence signed Order No. 360, entitled, "measures for observing the norms of international humanitarian law in the armed forces of the Russian Federation", which regulates the procedure for drawing up normative legal instruments relating to aspects of international humanitarian law and their study in the armed forces.

7. Instructions on international humanitarian law for the armed forces of the Russian Federation have been drafted. They are a supplement to the Service Regulations and include the basic norms of international humanitarian law as well as recommendations on its implementation in the preparation and conduct of combat operations. (For the participation of the Russian Federation in the Additional Protocols, see the annex to the main report (A/57/164).)

Slovenia

[Original: English]
[June 2002]

1. As a newly independent State,[3] the Republic of Slovenia emphasized the significance of membership in the most important conventions and other instruments of international humanitarian law. Slovenia thus

expressed its commitment to and support for the endeavours of the international community to define as clearly as possible the status of participants in international and national armed conflicts, to provide efficacious assistance to the victims of such conflicts and to strengthen peace, security, mutual trust and understanding between the nations of the world. In addition to the ratification and notification of succession to the most important international humanitarian law instruments, the proof of Slovenia's efforts lies in the great number of national regulations adopted within this framework, the institutional adaptation undergone by its bodies and organizations, the implementation of its obligations in this field and the systematic dissemination of knowledge in international humanitarian law.

Notification of succession and ratification of important international humanitarian law instruments

2. During the initial period following the independence of the Republic of Slovenia, attention was mainly focused on the notification of succession to the international humanitarian law instruments ratified by the former common State, the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Slovenia's basic intention was to assume the concomitant responsibilities and ensure continuity.[4] However, the newly independent State wished to emphasize and make clear its responsibility and obligations with regard to membership of individual international humanitarian law instruments.

National legislation for the implementation of international instruments of international humanitarian law

3. The Penal Code (OJ RS Nos. 63/94, 70/94 and 23/99) stipulates in its general articles the criminality of violating international humanitarian law provisions, even if such violations are committed by a military person at the order of a superior (article 283).

4. A second provision refers to the non-applicability of the statute of limitations to war crimes (article 116).

5. Specific serious violations of international humanitarian law are included in the chapter on criminal offences against humanity and international law.

6. The Defence Act (OJ RS No. 82/94) contains the injunction to implement all forms of military and civil defence in conformity with the principles of international humanitarian law or international commitments undertaken (article 4). Under the system of military command, no one may issue a command or be under an obligation to carry out an order if it is obvious that by doing so he/she would commit a criminal offence or violate the provisions of international humanitarian law (article 43).

7. The Law on the Slovenian Red Cross (OJ RS No. 7/93) regulates the status and functioning of the national association and within this framework also the activity of the enquiry service for prisoners of war and internees, the training of personnel in implementing the tasks arising from the Geneva Conventions and the dissemination of knowledge about international humanitarian law. The law separately regulates the use and protection of the Red Cross emblem and stipulates punishment for its improper use; the abuse of the emblem is incorporated in the Penal Code. After the International Organization of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent had made suggestions and comments on the basis of substantive analysis of this part of the law, proposals for its amendment were worked out, particularly concerning the limitation and precise definition of the protected use of the emblem.

Education, training and dissemination of knowledge in the field of international humanitarian law

8. In the units of the Slovenian Armed Forces, soldiers and members of the military hierarchy acquire a basic knowledge of international humanitarian law. In schools for both non-commissioned and commissioned officers, candidates are acquainted in detail with the principles and provisions of international humanitarian law.

9. With reference to the security forces and police operations, particular emphasis is given to the training of police officers participating in international peace missions. All officers must attend a special seminar in international humanitarian law. All members of the police are given a brochure on international humanitarian standards for the use of force, and the topic of human rights and international humanitarian law is included in the curriculum at the Police Academy. The principles and provisions of international humanitarian law are included in the study of criminal law, history and professional ethics at the College of Police and Security Studies.

10. Training seminars on the principles and provisions of international humanitarian law are organized within the Slovenian Red Cross for physicians, nurses, Civil Protection attendants, Red Cross nurses and nurses in the Slovenian Armed Forces.

National Commission on International Humanitarian Law of the Republic of Slovenia

11. In addition to systematically addressing individual topics of implementation of international humanitarian law, the Commission submitted several proposals to the Government and to individual ministries to expedite the ratification of international humanitarian law instruments and amendments to the domestic laws, and to implement organizational and institutional measures to improve the situation in this field. (For the participation of Slovenia in the Additional Protocols, see the annex to the main report (A/57/164).)

Sweden

[Original: English]
[28 June 2002]

1. Sweden continues to attach great importance to the work to strengthen the implementation of international humanitarian law and the protection of persons, and was therefore pleased to see the Swedish National Defence College hosting the third meeting of the research project of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law on Humanitarian Protection in Non-international Armed Conflict, which was held in Stockholm from 19 to 23 September 2001.

2. Following the adoption of the Plan of Action of the 27th International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference in 1999, a joint effort was made by the Swedish Red Cross, the Swedish Total Defence Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to translate, publish and distribute the plan of action to relevant ministries, authorities and organizations. The translation of the plan of action is also available on the web site of the Swedish Red Cross. (For the participation of Sweden in the Additional Protocols, see the annex to the main report (A/57/164).)

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[Original: English]
[28 June 2002]

1. The Geneva Conventions (Amendment) Act (Overseas Territories) Order 2002 (S.I. 2002/1076), which came into force on 1 May 2002, extended the application of the 1995 Act (which provides for amendments to the Geneva Conventions Act 1957, enabling the United Kingdom to ratify the 1977 Additional Protocols) to the following Overseas Territories for whose international relations the United Kingdom is responsible:

Anguilla	Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands
Bermuda	St. Helena and Dependencies
British Antarctic Territory	South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
British Indian Ocean Territory	Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia
Cayman Islands	Turks and Caicos Islands
Falkland Islands	Virgin Islands
Montserrat	

2. Accordingly, the United Kingdom Government is writing to inform the Swiss Government, as depository of the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols, that the United Kingdom's ratification of the Additional Protocols will be extended to the above territories. The same statements made by the United Kingdom upon the ratification of Additional Protocol I are made in relation to the extension of the United Kingdom's ratification of the Additional Protocols to the above territories.

3. On 17 May 1999, the United Kingdom made the following statements regarding the United Kingdom's acceptance of the competence of the International Fact-

Finding Commission, as provided for in article 90 of Additional Protocol I:

> "The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland declares that it recognizes ipso facto and without special agreement, in relation to any other High Contracting Party accepting the same obligation, the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission to inquire into allegations by such other Party, as authorized by article 90 of Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949."

4. This statement has, in May 2002, also been accepted by the territories listed above. The United Kingdom Government is therefore writing to inform the Swiss depository that its statement of 17 May 1999 is to be extended to those territories.

Dissemination of international humanitarian law

5. The United Kingdom Interdepartmental Committee for International Humanitarian Law was established in 1999 and is composed of representatives of the government departments responsible for international humanitarian law matters, together with representatives from the British Red Cross.

6. The Interdepartmental Committee established a sub-group on dissemination to consider dissemination issues.

7. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office published an illustrated booklet entitled "United Kingdom and International Humanitarian Law" in September 2001. The booklet has been widely distributed both within and outside the Government and is intended to provide an introduction to the basic principles of international humanitarian law, United Kingdom implementation and recent developments. (For the participation of the United Kingdom in the Additional Protocols, see the annex to the main report (A/57/164).)

Yugoslavia

[Original: English]
[28 June 2002]

1. Following its readmission to membership in the United Nations on 1 November 2000 and having regulated its status in many international organizations in 2001 and 2002, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has undertaken the complex task of accepting, by way of succession, almost all international agreements to which the former Yugoslavia was a Contracting Party.

2. In that respect, special attention was given to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Additional Protocols thereto. By its successor statement of 28 September 2001, addressed to the Government of Switzerland, as depository of the above Conventions and Protocols, the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, without any reservations and as of 27 April 1992, when the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was established, accepted the Conventions and the Additional Protocols thereto.

3. The Yugoslav Red Cross implements the programme for the dissemination of international humanitarian law and the basic principles of the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent movement.

4. In this connection, it is particularly noteworthy that the Yugoslav Red Cross has been included on a regular basis in dissemination programmes for the Army of Yugoslavia, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

5. In cooperation with the ICRC, the Yugoslav Red Cross is seeking to set up a Centre for International Humanitarian Law within the Yugoslav Red Cross, which would gather experts on this issue from the entire territory of Yugoslavia. The Centre's task would be to expand dissemination activity to include an in-depth study of certain issues from the field of international humanitarian law, prepare the relevant recommendations to the competent government authorities, in cooperation with similar institutions abroad, as well as to prepare methodological and professional innovations as regards dissemination, etc.

6. In this regard, the Yugoslav Red Cross has engaged in introducing new programmes. For example, in 2002, it initiated a specialized course in international humanitarian law, at the postgraduate level at the Faculty of Political Science in Belgrade. This is the first time such a course has been organized in the territory of Yugoslavia and, along with members of the Faculty, the Yugoslav Red Cross and ICRC are taking part in its implementation.

7. In 2002, the Yugoslav Red Cross initiated a campaign to raise awareness of the dangers posed by small arms and light weapons. The campaign was well received by the public and also by the competent government authorities, which extended their full support. In addition to the support received in Yugoslavia, the campaign was widely promoted outside the country. The Yugoslav Red Cross presented the campaign within the United Nations, during the July 2001 United Nations Conference against the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons, as well as at the regular sessions of the working bodies of the International Red Cross Movement in Geneva.

8. The Commission for International Humanitarian Law of the Yugoslav Red Cross, established in 1970, plays the role of a national commission. It provides advice to the Federal Government, the Yugoslav Red Cross and other bodies dealing with international humanitarian law in regard to the activities that need to be undertaken to encourage the implementation and development of this branch of international law.

9. Following the accession of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to membership in the United Nations, the Commission initiated actions to promote the confirmation by the competent government authorities of the membership of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the international humanitarian law conventions to which the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia was a Contracting Party and to promote Yugoslavia's becoming a contracting party to new conventions in the field.

10. The Missing Persons Service of the Yugoslav Red Cross, an official service contemplated under the provisions of international humanitarian law, has continued its activities in assisting the victims of war. (For the participation of Yugoslavia in the Additional Protocols, see the annex to the main report (A/57/164).)

Notes

[1] With regard to this Committee and its work, see the report to the King submitted prior to the royal decree of 6 December 2000 establishing CIDH (*Moniteur belge*, 12 December 2000). See also M. Offermans, "La Commission interdépartementale de droit humanitaire de Belgique", *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, No. 788, mars-avril 1991, pp. 164-177. An English translation of this article was published in the *International Review of the Red Cross*, No. 281, March-April 1991, pp. 154-166. The article was supplemented by its author for the period 1991-1999 by means of the working document drafted for the Regional European Meeting of National Commissions on Humanitarian Law (Brussels, 19-20 April 1999). The working document is included in the report of the meeting, published by ICRC in 1999 under the title "Rencontre européenne des Commissions et autres instances nationales du droit international humanitaire".

[2] The documents of this meeting have been published in a compendium compiled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and distributed to the meeting's participants.

[3] The Republic of Slovenia won international recognition in January 1992 and became a member of the United Nations on 22 May 1992.

[4] The Basic Constitutional Charter on the Sovereignty and Independence of the Republic of Slovenia (OJ RS, No. 1-4/91, 25 June 1991) stipulates that the Republic of Slovenia assumes all the rights and duties which under the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia and the Constitution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia were transferred to the authorities of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Constitutional Act for the implementation of this instrument stipulates that international agreements concluded by the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia which refer to the Republic of Slovenia apply in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia (article 3).